

H.R. 2929

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2929 which bans the construction and use of permanent bases in Iraq. This legislation sends an important message to the people of Iraq and the rest of the world that the United States does not intend to remain in Iraq permanently and does not intend to control Iraqi oil resources.

Based on current negative views of so many across the globe, it would be extremely dangerous for the United States, its citizens and our armed forces to remain in Iraq indefinitely. Previous provisions like the one before us today have been in legislation that bans our military forces from remaining in Iraq permanently; however, these provisions will expire on September 30, 2007. With recent statements made by the Bush Administration suggesting a long-term presence of our troops in Iraq, the time is now for Congress to speak out and reflect the views of the American people.

H.R. 2929 sends a clear message to Americans and the rest of the world that the Iraqi government and the many cultural and ethnic groups that live there that they need to work together to achieve national sovereignty and peace. Relying on the United States is the wrong position for Iraqis as it will not develop their national identity and strength.

The bipartisan Iraq Study Group made it very clear that the United States must not remain in Iraq permanently. H.R. 2929 accomplishes this task and I commend the gentlewoman from California, Ms. LEE, for bringing this bill to the Floor today. I urge all my colleagues to support it.

TRIBUTE TO THE CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Catholic Diocese of Marquette, which celebrates its sesquicentennial this weekend. The Diocese of Marquette enjoys a rich and storied history that stretches back into the earliest days of the U.P.'s settlement. In many ways, the story of Michigan's Upper Peninsula is deeply intertwined with the history of the Diocese of Marquette.

Even before the Catholic Diocese and before the United States was a nation, Catholicism played an integral role in the settlement of the U.P. As early as the 1600s, Jesuit missionaries from France began spreading the Gospel to natives of the Upper Peninsula. In 1641, Saint Isaac Jogues was the first to offer Mass in America's third oldest city, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

In 1668 missionary Jacques Marquette, for whom the Upper Peninsula's largest city is named, became the first resident pastor to the Chippewa and Sault Indian tribes. For nearly 350 years, the Jesuits remained a constant presence in the region.

Father Frederic Baraga settled in L'Anse in 1843 and devoted the rest of his life to spreading the Word. The present-day Diocese of Marquette, encompassing all of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, was declared a Vicariate Apostolic within the ecclesiastic Province of Cincinnati in 1853. In 1857 it was established by Pope Pius IX as the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, and the saintly Father Baraga was named its first bishop.

Bishop Baraga moved from his missionary efforts at L'Anse to Sault Ste. Marie to carry out his new mission. Unfortunately, Sault Ste. Marie was located 230 miles from L'Anse and Father Baraga found the location too remote of a location to effectively reach the residents of the U.P. In 1865, the seat of the diocese was moved to Marquette, Michigan. At that time, the name was changed to the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie and Marquette. In 1937, the Diocese assumed its current title, the Diocese of Marquette.

Throughout the 20th century Bishop Baraga's successors strived to continue building the church as they increased the number of parishes, missions and Catholic schools throughout the diocese, and encouraged involvement from the laity.

By 1953 when the Diocese celebrated its 100th anniversary of being named a vicariate apostolic, the Diocese had grown significantly. At that time the U.P. Diocesan clergy numbered 143. The Diocese encompassed 96 parishes, 42 chapels and 38 missions. The Diocese had six high schools and 28 grade schools. A Centennial Mass was held August 30 at Memorial Field in Marquette and seven additional observances were held in various regions of the U.P. in September and October 1953.

Madam Speaker, the Diocese of Marquette remains today a church that is intrinsically linked to the spirit of the Upper Peninsula. It remains a church that actively evangelizes and spreads the Word of the Lord. The Diocese continues to minister to the poor and care for the weak and infirm. My hometown church, the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Menominee, Michigan resides in the Diocese of Marquette. A prayer we say there reflects well the history, spirit and sentiment of the Diocese of Marquette. It reads:

May the power and love of Jesus transform our families

Our neighborhoods, our society and all nations

By becoming a welcoming, forgiving people.

May we let our faith shine on the world around us,

Radiating the love of Jesus

By the everyday way we speak, think and act.

This we ask in Jesus Name. Amen

Madam Speaker, 150 years since its founding by Bishop Frederic Baraga, the Diocese of Marquette remains a steady bastion of Catholic faith in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Just as the Diocese guided the U.P.'s settlement, it continues to today to serve the residents of the Upper Peninsula.

Madam Speaker, this Sunday the Diocese of Marquette celebrates 150 years of service to the people of the Upper Peninsula and 150 years of worship. 2,000 Catholics from throughout the U.P. and 10 Catholic bishops from across the Midwest are expected to attend. Residents of the U.P., of all faiths will come together—to celebrate this historic mile-

stone—and to honor Catholicism in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. I would ask, Madam Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in paying homage to the Catholic Diocese of Marquette, the clergy who have served there and the many parishioners—past and present—who make up this Diocese, rich in history, rich in faith and rich in the Lord's spirit.

CONGRATULATING MS. GAIL P.
HARDY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Gail P. Hardy, who became the first African American in Connecticut's history to be appointed to the position of State's Attorney. Ms. Hardy, an 11-year veteran of the Division of Criminal Justice in Connecticut, was appointed to serve as State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Hartford. The appointment was by a unanimous vote of Connecticut's Criminal Justice Commission. As State's Attorney, Ms. Hardy will be the chief law enforcement officer in the Judicial District of Hartford, where she will oversee prosecutions and more than 70 employees in the Hartford district. The district includes Hartford and 18 surrounding communities, along with Superior Courts in Hartford, Enfield and Manchester, Hartford Juvenile Court, and Hartford Community Court.

Gail Hardy has an excellent and diverse record both in and outside of the courts. In addition to her impressive work as a prosecutor, Ms. Hardy also served as a probation officer, a public defender, a state child support investigator, an adjunct college professor, and as a counselor in a halfway house. Her past and current colleagues have offered no less than the highest regards to her experience and quality of her work and service. From the courtroom to the community, Ms. Hardy has a record that illuminates her competence and fairness that will serve her well as State's Attorney. The citizens in Hartford's judicial district can have confidence in a criminal justice system that is both efficient and unbiased under Ms. Hardy's leadership.

And so today, I rise to congratulate and honor Gail P. Hardy for her outstanding achievements. Ms. Hardy, through years of dedication and service to her community comes to the position of State's Attorney with great experience and knowledge that she will use to continue to succeed in this next chapter in her career. Ms. Hardy also brings to this position a broad perspective that will serve Connecticut's citizens well.

LIBERIA DESIGNATION EXTENSION

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3123. This legislation extends the opportunity to